

Meeting Minutes. SWARM. January 27, 2005.

Our first item of business was discussing the plans for improving rangeland in the Hamlin Valley Focus Area.

As discussed, plans include:

1. Installing fences to redistribute cattle, pipelines to distribute water, ponds, adjusting tree line.
2. Butcher allotment will be worked on in 2005. Other allotment treatments to follow in subsequent years.

Example: Spanish George – work with fuels reduction to take out some trees.

Additional fence lines.

3. Would like to look at the springs and riparian areas along Indian Peaks to improve this habitat for Sage Grouse.
4. Open up corridors through Atchison Creek to make it up to the Indian Peaks area.

As discussed we will focus on immediate ranch needs first, then tree reduction. After the first implementations, we will need to evaluate the health of the sagebrush habitat based on the effects of the previous years' work. Then we will make plans for the next step.

Discussion: Can we use chains to rip out trees and shrubs or does it need to be a bullhog? Chains may be less expensive and provide a more adequate treatment for our plans.

Discussion: We will need to work with other private land owners in the future to implement plans in other areas of Hamlin Valley and the other focus areas, Minersville and Fremont Country.

Second: We reviewed the map of the focus areas that will be included in the adaptive management plan and the EQIP proposal. All present agreed with the map. However, it was suggested to make the Fremont Country area smaller. As drawn it was incorporating areas not in the SWD working group focus.

Third: We began working on the adaptive research management plan. The following notes were made concerning Section 1, to fill in missing data.

- a) MONITORING OF EFFECTS --Will survey for Arch. and Pygmy Rabbits
 - b) BLM has vegetation trends data
 - c) Jim Davis' crew to do a detailed vegetation analysis.
 - d) We can do photo records and canopy cover data collection.
 - e) Line intercept, sample where the birds are.
 - f) Understory vegetation –toe pace?
 - g) Locations of sage grouse recorded by local landowners

b) LOOK TO HAVE JIM DAVIS COME OUT IN MAY BEFORE WE DO SOME IMPLEMENTATION. LEK LOCATION WITHIN THE IMPLEMENTATION SITE

1) Jeff, Jim, Becky, Chad and Halls will coordinate to figure out what we want Davis Crew to collect

Finally, we began discussing Section 2, ISSUES. We used past work from other Local Working Groups as a starting point. We worked through Population Management and Habitat Management Issues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2005. This will be at the extension office, at 10 am. We will continue on our discussion of ISSUES with “Socio-Economic”, “Planning” and “Other Issues.”